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WILLIAM WALLACE MOFFATT

Written by

EUNICE BEALL MOFFATT

His wife

1 9 3 4, A. D.

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Dedicated to the Moffatt decendants, who receive it with appreciation and a full understanding of the gracious act of love and labor.

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WILLIAM WALLACE MOFFATT,

AND

EUNICE BEALL MOFFATT.

MT AYR, IOWA.

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M O F F A T T M E M O I R S

B Y

WILLIAM WALLACE MOFFATT, MT. AYR, IOWA, A.D. 1934.

Back to the country of my ancestors I go,
In memory of happenings of the long ago.

To say that the country is a fairy-land you can find by reading "Evangeline" - which description is better than mine. The hills and valleys, mountains and lakes are a wonderland.

The two important cities of Cape Breton Island are Sydney and North Sydney - one on each side of the " most beautiful harbor in the world" - quoted by Charles Moffatt. This harbor lies north-east to southwest, a distance of about fifteen miles.

My ~~great~~ great grandfather was James Moffatt, who died in 1825.

Our ~~great~~-grandfather, John Moffatt located on the north side of the harbor, about two miles from the entrance, where he purchased one-hundred acres of land back to the hills. This was just after the country was taken by the English from the French. This land is now very valuable for its coal. At that time it was covered with excellent saw-timber. Great grandfather started a shipyard at this place, also a tannery.

A man by the name of Archibald operated a general merchandise store. Great grandfather's business was building and repairing launches. Here grandfather John Moffatt, the only child, inherited as nearly as we can tell, in the year 1790 or before. Here grandfather married Mary Ray about this time, and here their sixteen children were born, and fourteen growing to be men and women - John, Thomas, Hannah, Stephen, Mary, Elizabeth, Ann, Tabitha, George, William, Charles, Margaret, Peter, and Fred. Two died in infancy.

Uncle ~~George~~ Charles went through the ice on Christmas-day when he was twenty-one years old, while skating. His body was never recovered.

Father, Peter Moffatt, worked on the farm with grandfather.

Father when young learned the shoemaker trade. Later he helped grandfather in the shipyard and on the farm. Twelve years of his labor was lost, by their going security on notes for Mr. Archibald, which gave him a lasting impression never to go as security, or never to go in debt.

About one mile up the harbor and on the opposite side of the harbor, was the home of grandfather Grant. The land is now owned by a company, it beingvery rich in copper ore. All the buildings are removed. Near grandfather's home was uncle John Grant's home.

The two families were as one in affections. We saw uncle John Grant's daughter, Matilda when in Nova Scotia in 1926. She distinct-ly remembered when she stood up with my father and mother at their wedding-when she was only five years old.

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About a mile up the harbor from ~~uncle~~ Grandfather Grant's home was the Andrews' home, and a mile from them the Campbell home.

All these families were closely associated and in the same group of young people. Grandfather Grant's wife was Ann Love Musgrave.

Their family consisted of Charles, Caroline, Alexander, George, Elizabeth and Ann. Later, by a second wife, Bessie.

The first marriage in this group was Peter Andrews and Caroline Grant. Their first daughter, now Ann Stephens will be ninety years old April, 27th., 1934. Henry Andrews was born in 1845, and died in 1930. Elizibeth, was born in 1846, is now Mrs. Blades and lives in Colorado.

November the 12th., 1851, my father, Peter Moffatt (born August, 15th., 1823) was married to Eliza Grant. She was born March, 5th., 1831. To this union was born Fatima Moffatt-Tilbury, September, 29th., 1852. Mary Moffatt-Stockton, April, 13th., 1854. Bessie, in 1856, living but three months, William Wallace Moffatt, July, 27th., 1860 (first one born in Iowa), George Duncan Moffatt, October, 1st., 1862. Anna Caroline Moffatt-Kater, April, 20th., 1866. The families were all contented and happy in ot near North Sydney until the death of Caroline Grant-Andrews, June, 4th., 1857. The grief occasioned by this loss caused Rev. Peter Andrews(he had become a Baptist min-ister) to seek a new home in the United States of America.

He anticipated locating in Kansas but while on the boat from St. Louis to St. Joseph, he encountered a number of slave holders abusing their slaves. He remonstrated with them and they were going to throw him overboard, but the captain locked him in his own cabin, so he would safely reach his destination. Arriving at St. Joseph, he found there was such great agitation in Kansas over the slave question, he decided to go to Iowa. He came to Mt. Ayr, at the time only having a few houses. Not finding government land he could enter he started to Taylor County, hiring a horse. He met a Mr. Stewart, living near the Missouri line, whom he had previously met near Mt. Ayr.

Mr. Stewart told him he would find him 80 acres of land in Ringgold County, Iowa that he could enter. This he did, and it is now the home of his ninety year old daughter, Mrs. Stephens.

The glowing accounts of the immense prairies, fine timber land and beautiful streams of water, were sent home to the relatives, with the view of bringing them to this country. Immediately my father's mind was made up to go west, and he planned to come in 1858. William Campbell left Cape Breton in about the year of 1826 for the United States. He went to Florida, married a lady there of considerable wealth. Her brother and William Campbell were partners in a wagon making and general blacksmithing business.

In 1857 his wife died, and in the summer of 1858 he visited his old home near Sydney. Here he met Ann Grant, a beautiful young ladyof twenty four years. She at first refused his attentions, but his promises to immediately free his slaves and dispose of all Florida properties, and join the party coming to Iowa, changed her mind. They were married, and all left on the same boat for Boston, Mass., making a party of sixteen. Mrs. Munn,(Mrs. Ross's sister) Ben Moore and wife, Vina, Robert, Joe and Charles Moore, his children, Peter and Elizabeth Moffatt and children, Fay and Mary; Ann, Elizabeth and Henry Andrews, William and Ann Campbell. In crossing the Bay of Fundy, a heavy storm struck them, driving them an hundred miles out of their course, scudding before the wind. (related by Ann Stephens)

The party visited a few days in Boston with uncle George Grant, The Campbells went to Florida, and the others took boat for Portland, Maine, thence to Toronto, Canada by rail- from there to Chicago by way of the Great lakes - through the Straits of Mackinaw.

Father's description of Chicago at this time, was, not much there and the worst kind of streets. No pavements. From Chicago they went to St. Louis by rail. From St. Louis to St. Joseph by boat, the boat being so heavily loaded it took eight days to make the trip, or about forty miles per day. At St. Joseph a man with team was employed to take them to John Ross's, between forty and fifty miles, near what is now Stanberry, Missouri. This gave the Nova Scotians a chance to get thoroughly acquainted with Missouri mud. It rained nearly all the time, taking two days to make the trip. The men walked nearly all the way. Arriving at John Ross's, mother was a victim of quinsy, and was not able to be moved. Father came on to see uncle Peter Andrews, accompanied by the Andrews' children.

There they found uncle William Campbell, who had preceeded them, from Florida. He bought the Zook farm, adjoining the Andrews' farm.

He then returned to Florida. Father went back to Ross's in about a month and brought mother to Iowa, where they all wintered with uncle Peter Andrews in a small log-house with a fireplace in one end.

The larder became very low. Fresh meat was scarce. Henry made a coop with corn stalks and sticks and put it in the buckwheat patch to catch Prairie chickens. One of the Walters boys showed him how to make triggers to hold the coop to catch them.

The first day Henry noticed his coop was sprung and full of the Prairie chickens. He rushed out to hold the coop down, calling for mother to come and help him. She felt very grateful for such an abundant supply of the much needed food and made the remark" The Lord will provide", but Henry said she did not give him one bit of credit for his part.

Father in looking for a location for a home, decided to buy forty acres of land of George Walter, at five dollars per acre.

This forty joined forty acres he could enter from the government at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. This constitutes the old home known as the Moffatt eighty. I do not think this land was ever mortgaged. With uncle Peter's and Henry Andrews' help the winter of 1858-59, they worked in the woods, Henry Andrews hauling logs to the saw-mill with a yoke of oxen, the others remaining to chop the timber.

In the spring they commenced a frame house, fourteen by eighteen feet, fireplace in the east end. The lath and shingles were hand made. "Uncle" Joe Woods, who came from England, and lived one mile north, did the plastering. It is mostly there yet and firm to this day. Father had very little time for gardening and raising corn while building the home.

In November of 1859, uncle Peter Andrews took his oxen and went to Denver, Mo., for corn, paying one dollar per bushel, and bought a load of it and corn-meal. The night he got back with the load, he saw the light in the wondow, and in trying to reach it, got to one side in the cellar drain, and the folks in the house heard him calling-help! help! So went and found him with his load stuck in the drain. The winter was very severe and hardships numerous for the new colony. Father's first bay mare and one-horse wagon was brought from Missouri, buoght from a man there and was the means of conveyance for about three years.

They still used oxen and sleighs in winter. In 1863 father traded a yoke of oxen for old Kit - She had been stolen in Missouri and after father heard of that, they were worried for some time for fear the owners would come and take her, but they did not, and she proved to be a great money maker, her colts selling for one-hundred to ~~two~~ one-hundred-fifty dollars, at two to four years old.

Her last colt lived to the age of twenty-six years on the farm.

In 1860, uncle Peter Andrews married Elizibeth Walter. In the spring of 1860 uncle William Campbell came with his family from Florida. Their oldest son, Alexander was born in 1861. Sy. Andrews was also born in 1861. George Moffatt was born in 1862. Our parents were quite proud of their new force of boys coming on to follow the plow. Uncle William built a large barn in 1863. Ben. Moore, who had located in Stanberry, Mo. was the head carpenter for uncle William's building.

In 1863, Henry Andrews went to fight in the Civil war. In 1864 Ben. Moore joined the army. He was soon taken sick and sent home on furlough, and only lived a few months, his being the first death of those coming together in 1858. He left nine children fatherless, his second wife having three little boys. Uncle John Ross was appointed administrator and guardian.

In 1865, uncle George Grant was our first relative to visit us from the old home country. He came and Will Campbell made a trip to Ottumwa for fruit trees. On their way home they encountered an awful wind and rainstorm. The first gust tore every button off of uncle George's raincoat and when it was over they were thoroughly drenched.

Uncle William Campbell gave Brother George and I each an apple tree, and they bore fruit and lived to a considerable age.

Henry Andrews returned from the war in 1865. Father helped uncle Peter and Henry Andrews put up their hay that fall. As I sat on old Kit, I remember Henry coming up and teasing me until I lost my temper.

In 1866-67, father built on more house room, and in 1867, Susan Moore and family moved from the Ross neighborhood to Iowa, making their home with father for the first winter. Sister Fay and Vina Moore attended school in Mt. Ayr, Vina boarding with J. F. Mounts and Fay with Dr. Merrills, each working their board.

Uncle Fred Moffatt came in 1868 to seek a home. He helped father on the farm most of the summer, and worked at the carpenters trade in Mt. Ayr. In the fall of 1869, both Fay and Vina taught their first term of school, Vina the Baird school, near Redding, Fay the John Scott school, near where Kellerton was later located.

Here Fay boarded at the Guile home, Flo Guile being about her age. They became close friends. They each named their first daughter for the other.

April, 1870, was the saddest day our colony ever experienced, Ann Grant-Campbell passed away, leaving a daughter a few days old.

Christmas-day uncle William Campbell and boys were at father's for dinner. Afterwards we boys out at play, saw a black smoke pouring out of the flue at their home, two miles away. We hurried to tell the folks, and about this time the fire came out of the upstairs windows. Father jumped upon a horse, and uncle William hitched up and followed as fast as possible. There was not much saved out of the home. Tom Campbell and family were living there. They went into a large log-house nearby for a temporary home.

Uncle William, Charles and the baby made their home with us for several months. In the fall of 1870, mother and uncle William made a visit to Boston and I think, to Nova Scotia.

Father had bought a side-saddle for my sisters and July, Fourth, 1871, sister Mary and I went to Mt. Ayr to the celebration.

About four o'clock, Molly found me and said,"Let us start for home at ohce,"" it is going to rain". We mounted our horses and hurried home. We watched the clouds very closely, and when near the farm, afterwards the Hunter farm, a very sharp stroke of ligh--tening and heavy clap of thunder came and we were sure the rain would catch us. Molly tucked her hat under her skirt to save it, and we speeded on as fast as our horses could carry us. Molly's long hair streaming at full length behind. We could have turned in at Walter's or Ed. Stuck's homes, but Molly said",No, home!" and we got into the barn just as the storm struck. In the spring of 1872, Molly went to Corning, Iowa to work at the millinery trade, and boarded with uncle Peter Andrews. July, Fourth, 1872, uncle Joe Woods and wife and Fay and I went to Corning to visit and to bring Molly home. At this time I had my first sight of rail-road and train.

The first day of May, 1873, sister Fay married Rev. C. Tilbury, and in August of that year they established their home in Leon, Ia.

That summer uncle John and aunt Jane Ross visited us and Susan Moore. Sister Molly was working at the millinery trade at home.

Aunt Jane persuaded mother to let her go to Mt. Pleasant, Mo. to start a millinery shop. In August, father, Molly an I went to Ross's and she stayed and went into the millinery business at the Hutton home in Mt. Pleasant. This did not last but a few months, when Molly took a partner in November, 1873, A. R. Stockton being the one in a life partnership, living in Mt. Pleasant. He owned a nice home in the town, being a widower with one son. While out riding one evening, they decided to be married in the buggy, and one of his relatives performed the ceremony, he being a Justice of the Peace. No licence was needed at that time in the state of Missouri.

That night they did not tell of their marriage, but she gave the introduction of Mr. Stockton as her husband at breakfast time, next morning.

The summer of 1874, father bought his first mowing machine, paying a hundred - five dollars. He also bought the first two-horse cultivator. Our heaviest work was in August and September, putting up enough hay to keep the stock through the winter.

In February, 1875, two of Mr. Stockton's brothers came with teams and I went with them to Leon, where we loaded Mr. Tilbury's and their possessions into our three wagons and brought them to father's, and stayed one night there, and the Stocktons went on with their wagons, and a few days later, the Tilbury's followed, where Mr. Tilbury became pastor of the Baptist church in Mt.Pleasant, Missouri. (Oct 3) Here Flola May Tilbury was born, September, 21st., 1875.

One month later Gertrude Stockton was born, and only lived about one year. These were my father's first grand-children.

In 1876, uncle Peter Andrews made his first trip back to Nova Scotia. Before leaving there, he had preached at the old church on the Moffatt Wharf, where was also located the cemetery, one or more stores and a Tannery. On this trip he preached in the new church which was built in North Sydney- so he had the honor of preaching in both Baptist churches. Bert Moore, Vina's brother, who had lived with his aunt in North Sydney, came back with uncle Peter to make his home in this country.

The winter of 1876-77 William Barnes taught the Caledonia school, and as I took more interest in this school than for some time, mother engaged board with uncle Joe Woods and I attended Mt.Ayr high school the spring term, George A. Plentz being the teacher.

In 1876 Rev. Tilbury and family moved to Clarinda, Iowa, and sister Fay sent me an invitation to come and stay with her and attend school.

I went the last week in September, 1877, but the new school building was not completed until the first of January, 1878. October I worked gathering corn for a Mr. Butler, ten miles south, took typhoid fever and was sick in November and December. In July, 1878, a young Mr. Martin and I went to Essex to harvest. We hired to a Mr. Johnson for a dollar-fifty per day, binding wheat. My shoes rubbed my heels until I could not wear them. Then I worked in my sock feet for a day,

Imagine the condition of my feet and hands, but thanks to a great downpour of rain which lasted a day and a half, Mr. Martin and I went to the river and kept our hands and feet in water all day, not even going home for dinner. After this all the briars and blades of wheat had no effect on me. We worked over two weeks here, when another heavy rain stopped all harvesting. Martin and I started for our Clarinda home, barefooted, crossing streams out of banks.

One place I went clear under but struck the bank on the other side and climbed out.

Then Martin went some distance up the stream to get across the ditch while I waited. Talk about fun-yes we had our fun. Arrived at sister Fay's without dinner, after a fourteen mile tramp. Went to school again this year of 1878-79. In October, 16, 1878, Belle Tilbury was born and Truman Stockton in April, 2, of 1878.

In the summer of 1879 I decided to come home to work on the farm, coming by rail through Villiska and Afton. The Mt. Ayr bus (or stage), they called it, had gone, so I started afoot from Afton about one P.M..

Two miles out I saw an old gentleman eating, and feeding his team, so stopped to talk. I told him where I was going and asked to ride.

He said he was going to Eagleville via. Mt.Ayr and Caledonia. He was loaded,so I asked to ride on the level and down hills. He very readily agreed. We got to Eugene near sundown. A black storm cloud was right on our heels. I suggested we stop-he thought we should go farther. I said "no I stop at this house", and I asked the lady if I could stay overnight. I told her of the old gentleman, and could he stay? She said" yes" to both questions. I ran out to tell him and before we could get his team put away one of the heaviest rains I ever saw came down. He had his own bedding and she had a good woodhouse or summer kitchen and he suggested we sleep there.

She said it would not cost us anything, so there we slept. The next morning was bright.

I rolled my pants to my knees and started afoot without breakfast, and was in sight of Mt. Ayr before I thought possible. I washed my feet, put on my shoes and went to restaurant for dinner.

I looked around for some one from Caledonia, but not seeing any one, I resumed my journey afoot. Arrived home early in the evening, surprising the folks. This summer of 1879 brother George took the old team and went to seek his fortune working on the new railroad west of Kellerton, nearn the Burns' farm. He and George and James Farmer thought they were having a picnic, and prevailed on me to go also. I took a fine young sorrel team known as Barney and Blaze.

As I passed through Caledonia Madison Sullivan said he would rather have what I took off the team than all I would make. I told him I would look out for the team.

The first week I had a picnic with the others. The second week was very hot and I was very sick all one night, and a heavy rain that night stopped the work for a day. I returned home not much wealthier, but wiser. A year later, Rev. J. H. Tedford of Mt.Ayr bought Blaze, and Rev. Allen of Kellerton bought Barney. The first of September I returned to school at Clarinda. Father made sister Fay a present of the mare know as little Bird. In January, 1880, brother George came to Clarinda and bought Bird for fifty dollars.

Mr. Tilbury now decided to go to Stanberry, Mo. and run a Grocery store. This town had been started October, ninth, 1879. He moved there about February, fifteenth, 1880. I worked for him a month in the grocery. The 20th. of March I hired to Alex Stockton, who lived three miles away on his farm. He to pay me $16,00 per month for six months. I expected to return to school at Clarinda.

Mr. Stockton made me an offer of $17,00 per month for a year if I would remain with him. I went over to Clarinda at the time of the Fair there, and on looking around, did not find a boarding place to my liking, so returned to accept Mr. Stockton's offer.

He was feeding 56 head of cattle. They sold about June, first, 1880, making a nice profit. The summer was very favorable, and we got a fine crop of corn off of one hundred acres. In November he put eighty-one head of cattle on feed. My business was to feed the cattle and then gather corn the rest of the time. The corn was all cribbed by the first of December. Holiday week I came home for a week. While at home, father bought the Medaris' farm, one hundred acres for Fourteen-hundred and Fifty dollars. January, 16th., 1881, Irvin Roy Stockton was born. I had the pleasure of getting out at 2 o'clock in the morning, and riding Jeff Davis, the old horse, a distance of three miles, of icy-roads, to Stanberry to summon the doctor. He told me to go on and he would overtake me, but he nearly failed, for I was at the home gate when he came. I walked (or ran) most of the way home in a raging snow storm. I took the doctor's horse while he went to the house. Then I hitched the mules to the sled and went half-mile for Mr. Stockton's father and mother, arriv-ing about daylight. Then was announced the arrival of a fine boy.

After the chores the next trip was to Stanberry for Alex's sister, Mrs. Flowers. The storm lasted for about a week, blowing, snowing and drifting. Alex and I were as busy as bees taking care of things.

He also feed the chickens at his father's. One day the mule he was riding mired in the snow and Alex rolled off and landed in a ditch six feet deep. For reference of this storm ask any one who lived here in 1881.

My year being up in September, mother and George came to take me home the fifteenth. The sixteenth we had a good heavy snow storm which only lasted a few hours. In November, George went and helped Alex Stockton a month gathering corn.

The corn on the Medaris' farm brought thirty-dollars per acre, being 75¢ per bushel. As the farm cost $14,50 per acre, if all had been in corn, it would have brought twice what he paid.

July, 4th., 1882, I started to Mt.Ayr to the celebration with my sister and three other young ladies. In crossing a small creek, the team and old spring-wagon parted company, leaving the ladies in the wagon in the stream, I jumping and landing on the bank holding the team. I rolled my pants to my knees, took off my shoes and socks, threw in a log and got them on the bank-they gathered brush and I lifted the wagon, one wheel at a time and got it out, resuming our journey. The only damage was to my Sunday-breeches, which were bursted at the crotch, but repaired with pins by my sister.

July, 4th., 1883, brother George was married. In September the cattle were sold and the last debt on the Medaris' farm was paid

July, 26th., 1884, Ada Fay Moffatt was born. In October we bought from Ira Cooper the eighty acres across the road from the old home, price $1050,00. In 1885, Georgia Emma Tilbury was born. (July 12).

In 1886, father, A. R. Stockton and wife went to Nova Scotia, mother going with them to Boston and Springfield, where she visited her brothers. They stayed a month at father's old home in Cape Breton. In February, 1887, Anna Moffatt was married to C. F. Kater and in ~~March~~ Sept. 1888, Bessis Fay Kater was born. The 16th., of March, 1889, we bought one hundred-sixty acres of land adjoining Lon Smith on the south. The owner offered George the land for $8,00 per acre. Also the same offer to a man named Lewis. Mr. Lewis the next day stopped to say he was going to buy the land and we could have the north half for $10,00 per acre. Father said" we will give the $8,00 for it". " No $10,00 or I will keep it". When George and I came in from the feeding father gave us the report. I said to brother George,"saddle the gray mare and I will beat him to town".

I discovered him four miles from town talking to a neighbor. I turned into another road without his discovering me, went in, bought the land, had the deed recorded and returned home the same way.

When he arrived and found what had been done, he was very angry and on his way home, stopped to give father his blessing-I being absent.

The same spring I was helping C.F.Kater buy horses for the Eastern market. I went with a load of horses to Springfield, Mass. about the 12th., of May, Kater taking a load to Philadelphia. Prices not suiting him there, he re-loaded and went on to Springfield. They were finally sold at auction, making him a nice little depression.

The 30th. and 31st. of May and first of June, we had frost each morning, ending with a heavy freeze. The night of May, 30th., 1889, was the Johnstown flood. C. F. Kater was on the first train cross-ing after the Johnstown bridge was repaired-I having come on the northern route a week sooner.

Uncle Alex and uncle George Grant and wives made us a visit in October, 1889. The two uncles went to visit uncle Peter Andrews at Corning, Iowa, and found him quite sick. From there they visited Henry Andrews in Kearney, Nebr.. They returned via. Stanberry where they visited A.R.Stockton and other relatives, Alex bringing them back to father's. We had the sad news for them that uncle Peter had passed away and uncle William Campbell was very sick. He, too passed away a few weeks later. During the holidays I took uncle Alex and wife to Stanberry, from where they went on to St. Louis and then to their home. In January I took uncle George and wife to Stanberry to stay a few days and then to go on to California to spend the winter. On the way they stopped to see the Grand Canon, and he told me to be sure to see it if I ever had the opportunity.

Forty years later we were able to take his advice. Uncle George's visited with uncle Fred Moffatt's wife in Oakland, Calif., and other friends, returning about the first of April to spend a few weeks, before returning to their home in Boston. While he was here, the Moffatt partnership was disolved. Brother George got the Medaris' land and the Speelman land, making one-hundred-sixty acres. I rec-eived the 80 acres west across the road from the old home, and the 80 acres south of Lon Smith.

Brother George gave father his note for $1000,00 and I for $500,00 neither of which was ever paid. From now on till his death, father and I were partners fifty-fifty. In June, 1891, Lyda Moffatt was born.

The fall of 1892, George and Fred Wilkinson traded farms, George moving there, north of the Hunter farm, March, 1st., 1893. This is the 160 acres George willed to his son Ernest.

March, 20th., 1893, Alex Grant Moffatt was born.

The summer of 1894, was known with us as the dry year. Very little corn or hay; and orchards and other trees died from drouth.

The 4th., of July, George N. Moffatt came to visit us. In August father took him to Stanberry to visit. From there he went to California. This was father's last trip to Stanberry, as he took sick and passed away the 26th. of the same month.

Alex Stockton and family moved the fall of 1895 from Stanberry to Canon City, Colo.. In January of 1896, I visited them there.

The first of March, I rented the farm to E. R. Anderson for one year, he taking care of my stock. Mother visited through the summer with sister Fay Tilbury at Sharon, Kansas. The 5th. of May, I left Mt. Ayr for Boston having in care a carload of horses for C. A. Powers.

Arrived at uncle Goerge Grants the evening of the 10th.. He was out walking and aunt Fay and I were having a nice visit on the porch when uncle George returned. He could hardly believe his eyes, not knowing but what I was in Iowa. After a week's visit, I went to Springfield, Mass. for a week. Bought a scalper's ticket from Boston to Chicago, being at the time of the Democratic National Convention when W.J.Bryan was nominated on the platform of 16 to1.

I returned home in time to help Anderson put up the hay. In the fall, brother George and family went to visit A.R.Stockton in Canon City, Colo.. Mother and I keeping house for them.

March, 1st., 1897, we returned to the old home, Andersons having bought the G. S. Moore farm near Caledonia. The fall of 1897, George rented his farm to John Talley and they moved to Canon City, Colorado.

In February, 1898, I was taken sick with a pain in my side that lasted me three years or more. In June, 1898, George and I bought roundtrip tickets and met at the Omaha Exposition, exchanging them, and after a few weeks visit, each again met in Omaha. Here sister Fay met us for a few days visit at the Exposition and returned home with me where she visited until about the first of September.

George N. Moffatt having worked for C.F.Kater during the summer, offered to care for the farm and let mother and me visit in Colorado.

On leaving the old home, sister Fay said,"we three will never go out this lane again". Mother came back in February, 1899. I left Canon City for home April, 27th..

Ernest Moffatt was born May, 19th., 1899. The 8th of August, three teams went to Mt.Ayr for lumber to build a new house. George M.Lesan and his son Emery were the carpenters. In September, uncle Alex Grant arrived. We ate dinner in the new house Thanks--giving-day. Uncle Alex returned home in February, 1900, his son Milton needing him in the roofing business. George M. Moffatt hired to a man near Winterset, and left us the first of March.

In June of 1901 we built the barn west of the house, across the road. Gray Topsy was the same age as this barn and lived to be 32 years old on the farm. In 1902, I bought the 80 acres join--ing our 80 on the west, for $2300,00. In October, 1902, George's oldest daughter Ada, passed away at Canon City, and they brought her body here, and sold their property there, returning to make their home. Her body was intered in Ringgold cemetery beside her infant brother and sister.

In September, 1903, uncle Goorge Grant and wife and Alex and Mary Stockton visited us. Later in the fall sister Mary's health grew very poor, they went to SanDiago, California to spent the Winter.

November, 24th., 1903, I was married to Miss. Eunice Beall of Mt. Ayr, Iowa, and we went to St.Louis where we spent Thanksgiving. From there to Oklahoma where we spent two weeks with Rev.C and Fay Tilbury and daughters. During January, 1904, the Dunning Bank closed, and we had the heaviest sleet storm ever known here.

In May, 1904, mother and sister Fay went to San Diego, California to be with sister Mary. In August she passed away and was brought here for interment in Ringgold Cemetery.

October, 1906, Rev. C. Tilbury came to make a visit of several weeks, preaching at Mt.Ayr Baptist church while here, the church built during his pastorate here and dedicated in 1871. The last buggy I bought was in 1907 - $145,00. In 1909, I bough a twoseated carriage -$110,00. In 1911, bought Fancer, gray Percheron.

In July, 1911, (July, 12th.) sister Fay passed away, and on November, 6th., Rev. C. Tilbury passed away. They were brought here and placed in the Mt. Ayr cemetery.

In December, 1914, mother was taken, and just one year later Alex Stockton followed. In February, 1918, we hired L.D.Holloway to manage the old farm, where he continued as manager until his death, October, 3rd., 1931. In January, 1919, we made our first trip to Florida, spending three weeks at Pensacola, three weeks in St.Augustine, and a few days each in Jacksonville, New Orleans and Memphis.

At St. Augustine we met brother George and wife, and her sister and husband (Andrew Richardson) and all went to the beach a number of times and sight seeing in general, and also attended the Billy Sunday meeting there. Returned the last of March to home and paid our first income-tax .

The 27th. of October, while enroute to Chicago with cattle (at Chariton, Ioaw.) I had my arm broken. Was in the hospital at Ottumwa for five weeks. In January, 1921 we went to Miami, Florida.

On our way home we stopped at St. Augustine, Jacksonville and Sanford, visiting with my wife's cousin, J.B.Swan . Walter Beall joined us at St. Augustine, attending the National Editors Association.

In January, 1922, we again went to Miami, this time accompanied by Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Fender. Here we made the acquaintance of the Doty sisters, formerly of Creston, Iowa, and roomed with them.

In February, 1922, with other Iowans, we took an all-day boat ride to Soldier's Key (a 3 acre Island). Here we met Judge Prouty and wife of Des Moines. Mrs. Prouty was a very friendly lady and was glad to know her friends were our friends, and told us the romantic story of her aunt's life, out of which my wife composed her first and only poem, about Mrs. Willey of Mt. Ayr.

Mr. Simpson of Rockwell City, Iowa, was one of the tourists on the boat-ride, and we made his acquaintance, and he asked us to call on his wife who's sister had lived in Mt. Ayr, and through them we made friends that have lasted ever since-Rutledges, Johnpeters, and Whitlocks.

On the way home we stopped two days at Charleston,S.C., visiting Washington's Headquarters while there. It is yet occupied by the same family that entertained him. We went to the old church where he attended and it was also wrecked by the Charleston earthquake.

We went out to the famous flower garden, filled with Azaleas, Japonicas, Wisteria and other flowers.(very gorgeous).

We stopped at Richmond and went in a Taxi to view Libby Prison and many historic places. Also made our first visit to Washington, D.C and Mt. Vernon, Congress being in session while we were in Washington.D.C.. We had three days of sightseeing, going to Alexandria, Arlington and went up in the Washington monument. The place of the greatest interest in some ways, was the Smithsonian Institute .

In December, 1922, we again went to Miami to spend the winter, stopping next door to the First Baptist church, with Mrs. Henderson.

We were near Mt. Ayr friends, Prof. & Mrs. Wilkerson, and Mrs. Hunt-Patterson and sister. We returned by St. Louis, visited the large Zoo and other places of interest, and I had my eyes exam--ined by a fake doctor, it proved.

I went to Mayo Bros., Rochester, December, 12th., 1923, and had an operation on one of my eyes the 14th., remaining in Rochester until March, 1st., 1924. My wife came early in January and we stayed at the Milton hotel. Here we met a number of nice people we still hear from. December, 16th., 1924, we again started to Miami, arriving at 3 o'clock on the morning of the 19th., taking rooms with a Russian-Jew lady, named Skillkey, paying $55,00 per month for three months in advance. Here we had some memorable experiences. The 12th., of January we took a " grand and glor--ious" boatride to Fulford by the Sea, 12 miles up the bay.

They gave us a biscuit and a piece of cake for a free-lunch. Then we were told what glories would occur in the next few years to the city of Fulford. We were sucked in to the tune of $2500,00.

Our friends, the Rutledges, Johnpeters, Simpsons and others were so sorry for us. A week later the company tried to take our lots and give us one further back. I said"my deed or my money". They stood"pat" and so did I. I sued the company, got judgement, but the company failed. All my friends bought heavily in other companies and our loss was small as compared with theirs.

During the winter we met Mr. & Mrs. Foster and Miss. Price, of Albany, Mo., and they also made heavy land purchases.

In December, 1926, we went to Miami and spent the winter with Miss. Price, paying $60,00 per month for kitchen privileges and a cot behind a curtain with dressing-room two-feet square at the foot of the cot.

She had ten people on her premises that winter, one man on porch, one in Garage and one in a tent in the yard. Those were the great--est boom days in Miami. The lot we bought was listed for sale for $7,000,00 . We were promised our money several times.

July, 27th., 1924, we, in company with brother George and wife, Charles Campbell and wife and sister Annie, left for Nova Scotia, starting at five in the morning. Went by Osceola, meeting the Campbells at Ottumwa, where they had gone before. Arrived in Chicago in the evening and stayed at the new Southern hotel near the lake. Went on next morning to Detroit, staying over a day and visiting the Ford plant. Part of us went to beautiful Belle Isle in the afternoon. Went on to Buffalo, reaching there after-noon Saturday. Were met at the depot by G.M.Kirby and Lyndon Berkey, who had secured a nice rooming house for us, and later to Pan American park, where the women joined us at the Rose Garden with a nice six-o'clock dinner. This park was where William Mc Kinley was killed, and I spent three days there in 1901 at the Exposition.

We all spent Saturday evening with G.M. & W. L. Kirby. Next day all attended church, and in the afternoon G.M.Kirby took part of us to the Art gallery and came and spent the evening with us.

Monday morning we went to Niagara Falls, where Mrs. Maud Berkey took us in her auto to view the Falls on both sides of the river, and took us to lunch. About four o'clock we went on to Toronto where we stayed over night. Next day to Montreal, where we were another night. The bus-driver, a Frenchman, combined with the hotel to give the boys a gentle little"shave" . On leaving Montreal we crossed the river and went to a settlement where the fields were five to ten rods wide, extending back to the hills, each field fenced with white-washed boards.

The women were helping make the hay, hauling the hay, with one-ox-carts. We crossed the highest bridge known at that time, as we entered Quebec, landing on American (Abraham) heights. As I remember, 350 feet above the water. On leaving the depot, we climbed a steep grade. We stayed where they were all French. The woman in charge smiled at us in the universal language. We went to a French eating place, and were presented with a liquor menu. After that they gave us a food menu, so we had to wait half an hour for our food. Next morning we found a nice restaurant, without the liquor and took our meals there the rest of our stay. We visited the old fort, climbing one-hundred sixty steps. Some took the sight-seeing bus. We took the inclined railway a quarter of a mile or so down to the old town.

We left Quebec at 3 P.M. , taking a ferry across the river. Here (at east Quebec) we took train direct to Truro, Nova Scotia, arriving next day about four in the afternoon.

Truro contained beautiful shade trees and fine residences. Left next morning at nine for North Sydney. At the strait of Canso we were ferried about one and ahalf miles (depth of water unknown) in three sections, our train put together again on the other side, and arrived at North Sydney about seven at night. Took rooms at the Grant hotel. A raging windstorm struck about midnight, making us feel thankful we had shelter. It was a bright and pleasant Sunday morning and we all went to church, meeting some of the relatives. That afternoon we called on some of the shut-ins, one cousin who stood up with my parents when they were married, she being five years old at the time, Matilda Grant. Monday afternoon we were taken by Captain Lewis and Porter Moffatt in their Autos, to the Grant and Andrews homes. Captain Lewis and family entertained us at tea and in the evening. Later while in North Sydney, some went on Captain Lewis' boat to Sydney, some walking about the old town and calling on cousins-notably, cousin Charles Moffatt, 88, mowing with a scythe, and on his sister, Mrs. Eliza Robertson, 90, who charmingly acted as hostess at tea, in her black silk dress, and dainty white apron, calling the maids with a silver bell on the table.

Emma Lewis took us to old scenes of our parents and we spent a pleasent evening with Mr. & Mrs. Jackson. We left Thursday morning for Halifax, arriving in the evening. Stayed at the Gainesboro house, which was kept by a lady who survived the TNT explosion during the world war where hundreds were killed and many houses destroyed. This lady had her home destroyed, and herelife saved by being under some heavy furniture.

Fog in Halifax lasted forty-eight hours, a fog-bell ringing at intervals of seconds. We spent three days here, visiting markets, parks, attending church and viewing the beautiful harbor (after the fog lifted). Monday morning the George Moffatts and Campbells took the train to Yarmouth-to go from there by boat. Sister Anne and we two for St. John, New Brunswick. We arrived about five in the afternoon. Next day saw the high tide of the Bay of Fundy, library, boats unloading in the first Sloven-wagons we had ever seen-the platforms being hung below the axles and carried six inches or so above the ground. In places the backs of the houses were solid rock, the streets level with the tops of the houses, having a guard-rail. Walking over so many rocks, my shoes needed half-soling and in nine minutes after taking them to a shoeman he handed them back ready to wear, he sewing them on, himself .

Here I went to a restaurant with a nice little waiter girl, but caught sight of the Chinese cook, and when I saw and smelldd the supper, I ate some crackers and drank some water, and went back to our rooms where wife and sister had secured some lucious red Raspberries and other good things and ate with them.

We left St. Johns at six P.M.-- only one train-a-day. The Gov--ernment baggage men were our next experience-several of them, and our grips were well chalk-marked by morning. Arrived at Portland, Maine at nine next morning. The Bay-front park was our next objective.

Three-hundred-sixty-five islands in the bay. Next we went to Henry W. Longfellow's home. Took the train for Boston at two in the afternoon, arriving about four at the North depot. Took the elevated for the South depot, thence to Mt.Bowdoin station by the Boston & New Haven railroad-the line uncle George Grant traveled for years and years.

From there a short walk brought us to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Meachem, where we had a hearty welcome. Next day the nine (Meachems and our group) went to see a sub-marine launched.

The next day my wife and I went to see her mother's cousin, ninety years old, at Mansfield. It was here arranged for her to go with this cousin and her daughter and family to Maine, her mother's birthplace, by auto where she stayed over Sunday. Wife attended the Maine in 19.

Sunday morning the rest of us attended church at Tremont Temple. In the after-noon cousin Kate MC Intosh and sister Isabel visited with us at the Meachems.

Monday morning, George's and Charles' went on to New York and then on to Philadelphia, and we three followed on on Tuesday, all meeting that evening. Wednesday we visited the Betsy Ross house and old historic places. That night I was taken sick and laid up twenty-four hours. The rest visited the Sesqui Sentennial on Thursday. Next day we went on to Washington, D.C. Got rooms at the Capital Park hotel. Saturday went to Capital and Park, Smithsonian Institute and Congressional Library. Sunday morning we went to the Baptist church. Campbells went to Chicago Sunday, and the rest of us on Monday to Pittsburgh, on Pennsylvania Central railroad, passing through Harrisburg, Johnstown, and the famous Horseshoe Bend-wonderful scenery. Early Tuesday left Pittsburgh for Chicago. Went through Wooster, Ohio, the home of my wife's father, thus completing the scenes of our four fathers and mothers-Moffatts, Grants, Beals and Swans.

At Chicago we met the Campbells and took the six-fifteen train taht eveing, arriving at seven-thirty next morning, completing exactly a five weeks trip.

In January, 1927, we arrived in Miami and paid the Doty sisters $8,00 a week(nearer town than Miss. Prices).

Prof. Wilkerson and wife were here for their last winter.

The year 1927 was my banner year for feeding, selling more than fifteen-thousand dollars worth of cattle and hogs and our last year of ~~paying~~ income-tax. This fall Ernest Moffatt returned from California, and went with me with the stock to Chicago. From there he went to Des Moines, securing a job he held the rest of his life. December, 1928, brother George and I went with the stock, this being my last trip. After that, he or Alex looked after mine.

We went to Miami again in 1928, returning by way of Oklahoma, staying a week with my three nieces. In January, 1929, we again went to Miami and stayed with Miss. Price. This winter we got acquainted with William and Annie Glendining of Palmyra, Mo..

Friday, December, 13th., 1929, we left for California by way

where we stayed with Flola and Leonard Halstead at Alva, all the others coming there ro see us.

We went on Monday the 16th., and took sleeper at Amarilla, Texas and met Dr. & Mrs. Hardie Mc Greevy, so had pleasent company the rest of the day. They stopped at Flagstaff and we at Williams for twenty-four hours, going to visit the Grand Canon.

At Los Angeles the McGreeveys showed us about, and all went to the Rosslyn hotel. We went to Whittier the same day and stayed some weeks with Myrtle Smith.

January, 1st., Myrtle, her brother ~~-in-law~~ and his daughter and we went to the famed Rose Carnival at Pasadena. We also later visited Mrs. Vedder there. Rev. Vedder married us. We spent two days with the Linn Bements family at Santa Anna on our way to San Diego. Here we remained six weeks.

In Balboa park the out-door organ is the largest out-door one in the world. It had recitals each afternoon. There is also a large Zoo in this park, and there are flowering trees and shrubs from all over the world.

The museum is also very interesting, and the whole large park contains beautiful things. We came back to Whittier in time to attend the Iowa picnic at Los Angeles which occurred on Washington's birthday. Over fifty people there we had known. We came to Long Beach and spent a few weeks there, seeing many of our old acquaintances and on March, 22nd., another picnic was held at Frank Sellard's home in Los Angeles, especially for the Mt. Ayr people.

As we started home, we spent three days at the Rosslyn hotel and here Emily McElhinney Struthers and Mrs. A. W. George and families called upon us. From Los Angeles to San Francisco we took the Coast Line, much of the way next to the ocean. The white caps were within a few rods of the tracks. At San Francisco we stayed two days at the Marx. The day after arriving we and C.A.Knight and wife (of Mt.Ayr.) took a ten hour trip to the Red woods, on a grey bus. At dinner we ate in a Red-wood cabin, and had our first taste of Artichoke. We went to Stanford University and passed Palo Alto, the home of Ex-president Hoover. The next day we went to Sacramento, going across San Francisco Bay on the ferry. we were met by John and Perle Wentz who drove us ten miles into the country to Roy and Mary Sullivans where we stayed over Sunday. Monday Roy took us by where Sutter first discovered Gold in California.

Also by the Capitol and other places of business and interests, and we were invited to lunch at the Wentzes, resuming our journey at two-o'clock. We came down the noted Feather-river Canon with wonderful water-falls. Next day we passed through the Great American Desert- well named, as everything was mountains, rocks and sand. Crossing the outskirts of Great Salt Lake we arrived at Salt Lake City about four in the afternoon, stayed at the Williams hotel. Next morning visited the Mormons Taberhacle and heard the organ, and a speech setting forth their doctrine-and viewed the Temple-on the outside. Were invited outside of a special pen, or yard. No Gentile allowed on Holy Mormon grounds. We were satisfied to leave the Mormons and his religion for good.

We visited the fine Capitol building, and started on toward even-ing to visit Canon City, where we arrived next day. At ten o'clock in the morning we crossed the Great divide, where the trains stopped some time to view the grand scenery on this highest point between mountains. The train also stopped at the Royal Gorge, and susp-ension bridge over it, thousands of feet above, before we cameto Canon City. We stayed here over night-going to see the State Pen-itentiary and Miner'l health Springs-and I viewed old scenes and saw old friends I had know when I wintered there in 1898-99.

We went to Peublo in the afternoon, and were met byvIrwin Stockton and Saturday Annabel took us all over ~~to~~ Pueblo. Sunday attended first Baptist church, and in the afternoon Truman and Jr.came to take us to Denver. We called on Ed & Dora Swan at Colorado Springs and arrived about dark at Denver. Pauline took us over Denver on Monday and we started at eleven that night,arriving in Mt.Ayr about twenty-two hours later.

Brother George was not well all the summer of 1930, went to Mayo Brothers in November, operated on for Cancer of the stomache, and died the ninth day of,November,29th.,1930.

I was sick with "Flu" at the time. We left for Miami, December, 16th., and stayed at Miss. Prices. Mr: & Mrs. Helfer arrived later in December and the Robertsons from Idaho, January, 6th.,1931.

Six families of us had many picnics and good times that winter.

Came home by the Singing Towers and visited the Robertsons at St.Petersburg where they went earlier. The last day of May Eunie was in Des Moines Methodist hospital, for two weeks, and I went on to Rochester, and on returning staying at Meechems' near the hospital.

June the 18th., Ernest Moffatt was killed in an aitomobile accident, leaving his young wife, and a baby six days old. October, 3rd. Mr. Holloway died, following an appendicitis operation.

In November Mr. Gibson moved on the place. The last day of 1931, we again started to Florida, staying with Miss. Price, her brother also being with her. We were the only ones there of the six families.

December, 7th.,1932, we again went to Miami, Mrs. Sue Lesan going with us, and also staying at Miss. Price's. The Helfers went earlier and stayed half a block away. Mr. Lunney arrived December, 28th., making six Mt. Ayr people, having a very pleasant time together that winter, and with other friends. According to previous plans, Tuesday, January, 24th., Mr. & Mrs. Helfer, Mr. Lunney and I were off for Cuba.

The first few miles we spent watching the exceptionally fine Tomato fields and orange groves from Miami south to Florida City.

The railroad turns south and east at that point, and goes through the Florida Everglades. This section is usually covered with overflow water and a heavy growth of wild(Saw) grass from four to six feet high.

Key Largo was our first stop. This little Key was bought by a company in 1925, and was laid out to be one of the greatest gardens in the world. Here thousands of people invested and lost their ALL.

This roadbed is built from one key to another till you reach Key West, and is only two to six feet above high tide, but the roadbed is heavily banked with rock as a protection from the breakers. Seven miles is the longest distance between keys. It cost a million dollars a mile to build. The city of Key West is quite small. Here we had to sign passports and embark for Cuba. We men ate our dinners soon after getting on the boat, but Mrs. Helfer feared to do so at first, but we finally persuaded her to try it, the sea was so smooth and she, like us, enjoyed the dinner very much. We took our first Spanish lessons of her. Our most important words were" get out of our way, we do not want to be bothered", useful in Havana.

On leaving the boat we were surrounded as if by a swarm of bees, yelling their hotels, and so forth.

One man told Mrs. Helfer he would take us free to a good hotel for one dollar a day each, four dollars for all.

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Here at Hotel Roosevelt, named for Theodore, we stayed five days, finding everything very satisfactory. We took our breakfasts on the roof-garden, eight stories up. It gave a beautiful view of city, ocean and old fort Morro. The first morning we visited the new capitol building. Quoting from "Cuba of today", it is a magnif--icent, most beautiful edifice, its immense dome in covered with real Gold, its architectural proportions sublime, and interior decor--ations and furnishings of regal magnificence. For an island in such sore financial straits and with barely three millions of people to expend over eighteen millions of dollars is criminal folly and extravagance, but it is an enduring moment to their love of "splash".

And no city in the world can boast of a more beautiful setting for its capitol, with its lawns, parks, flowers and trees. We took our lunch at a canopy covered restaurant on the street. We were assailed by a horde of beggars(dispersed by police), serenaded by a negro band (to whom we gave a collection) and offended the waiter by lack ofa tip.

After dinner we went to the old Fort Morro Castle. We crossed the channel on a row-boat to an island north of the city, where it is located. The second day we visited the Maine and the beautiful residential sections, golf course, beach and cock fighting ranch.

On our way home, we passed some thatched-roofed huts. Mrs. Helfer got out her camera, when a number of school children rushed out in front of it and Mr. Helfer threw pennies in the opposite direction before she got a snap shot of the huts.

Our driver waved at a lady as we passed a house,so we congratulated him on his choice. This pleased him. In passing a field we saw two boys plowing with a yoke of oxen, and we got out to see their harness. A 4 X 4 stick was lashed to the back of the horns of each ox. In the center a bamboo pole about twelve feet long had one end fastened to the yoke and one to the plow with ropes.

The plow refused to scour. I had my picture snapped holding the rope to drive the team of oxen" Senor Moffatt plowing in Cuba".

We passed a large number of sugar factories, but all were closed.

In these suburbs we saw some beautiful Flamingoes and Mrs. Helfer took a snap-shot of them. We had expected to start home Saturday but the ocean was so rough Mrs. Helfer feared to go (having had some experience), so I suggested I send a Cablegram and we stay over.

My first Cablegram, $1,65.

The last day there we went ninety-three miles by railroad to Mat--anzas, east of Havana, on a beautiful harbor of the Carribean sea.

Here we were beseiged by guides and beggars. Sunday evening we attended a negro church. The preacher, singers, choir leader and ourselves were the only white persons there in attendance.

We ate one day with an English lady (Mrs. Helfer who was English, thinking her Dutch) and learning that Mr. Lunney was looking for a million dollar lady, she said she had a million dollar heart.

We visited the old cathedral where the bones of Columbus and his son were laid. This was the first time I had seen people saying mass-but their eyes followed us. We saw many bananas and cane fields, but instead of a coffee field we tried to find, the driver went to the horse races.-

Our voyage home was perfect, making a delightful seven days out-ing at a cost of only forty dollars each. On arriving home,found the Mt. Ayr bank closed, January, 23rd.,1933.

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Ann Stephens related the following story to show how our parents lived when they first came to this country. They had no money but needed a bedstead. Father went to the timber and brought home a number of Hickory poles.

Ann asked him what he was going to do with them? He said"Make a bedstead". Ann said it was a beauty when finished and high enough to put a trundlebed under. The first bed I remember of sleeping in was a trundle-Bed.

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During the Civil war, one evening two men rode up and asked for a night's lodging. Father said "yes if you can put up with our way of living". Next morning they told father they had no money, but if he could take an old English flintlock pistol he could have it. This he gladly accepted. It is now in the hands of A.G. Moffatt as a keepsake. We have visited a number of places where old firearms were on exhibition and have only seen one - at Springfield, Mass. exactly like it. *************

When uncle Alex Grant was here visiting us in the fall of 1899 he told me this experience in his life. When he was an apprentice, or tarboy, on a sailing vessel of his father-in-law, Captain McClough, the watchman gave a signal that a storm was approaching and to haul in the sails. Nothing can be done without the Captain's orders, and Captain McClough being under the influence of liquor, said"no, let them alone". Order after order was signaled, but he continued obstinate, and would not allow anything done until the storm was upon them. The first crash, the top mast was taken and all the sails ripped off as if they had been paper. All decks were swept clean and they were helpless before the storm. No lives were lost but as I remember, it was nine days before they were picked up.

They were so nearly starved, none of them could walk, and for lack of water, their tongues were swollen and stuck out of their mouths. The vessel was a total loss.

A few years later, uncle Alex became captain of a vessel for a few years, then went into partnership with uncle George in the roofing business in Boston. Later he went to Springfield, Mass. and in the same business with his brother-in-law, McClough.

One day in measuring a roof with a tape line, Mr. McClough mis-calculated the distance to the edge and stepped backward off the roof, killing him.

In the early seventies, uncle Alex's first wife passed away, leaving him four sons and one daughter. While a widower, he was visiting at the George Grant home, also, a maiden lady was there (inclined to matrimony). On leaving, he tried to slip out of the side door, when she saw him, and said,"Mr. Grant, is it possible you are not goin tosay anything to me?". Aunt Fay told this at our home, making quite a laugh at uncle Alex's expense.

Later he married Lydia Moffatt,daughter of George Moffatt, my father's brother. She was the one, who with him visited us in 1889. ****************************

-- Addendum.-

My father's father, John Moffatt, was born some time in the 1770's, married in the 1790's -Died June, 13th., 1860. And my grandmother, Mary Ray-Moffatt-died November, 1851. Had sixteen children; -grew up, five girls and nine boys. John's father was James Moffatt. Died in-1825. Grandmother Moffatt's parents were Alexander Grant and Ann Musgrave-Grant. There were six children ,and after Ann Musgrave-Grant died he married a widow and they had one daughter, Bessie Grant.

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